

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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ACDA-07 TRSE-00 EB-07 IO-13 /087 W

----- 104826

R 241545" SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3332

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 6782

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE,GW, UR

SUBJECT: DO THE COMMUNIST STATES FAVOR AN SPD/FDP ELECTION
VICTORY?

REF: BONN 15831

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC REPRESENTATION SEPTEMBER 21, AN EMBOFF ASKED IF
SOME OF THE GDR'S RECENT ACTIONS, I.E. RELEASE OF BORDER-
TRESPASSER BUBERS, POSITIVE STATEMENTS OF SED CHIEF
HONECKER ON COURSE OF GDR/FRG RELATIONS , ETC. COULD BE
INTERPRETED AS AN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE FRG ELECTIONS.
HE REPLIED THAT HE PREFERRED TO LOOK AT THESE MATTERS ON
THEIR OWN MERITS AND NOT AS A GDR ATTEMPT TO HELP THE SPD
ALTHOUGH IT IS CLEAR THA THE GDR LEADERSHIP WOULD
PREFER RETURN OF THE CURRENT GOVERNEMENT IN BONN.

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE SOVIET LEADER-
SHIP ALSO PREFERS THE CURRENT FRG GOVERNMENT, HE
HESITATED SAYING IT WAS POSSIBLE THE SOVITS WOULD
PREFER A " MODERATE" CDU GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH THEY COULD
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DEAL BUT WHICH COULD ALSO BE FREELY CRITICIZED IF THAT PROVED NECESSARY TO FURTHER MOSCOW'S POLICIES. HE ADDED THAT MOSCOW MIGHT PREFER A CDU GOVERNMENT ALSO FOR THE EFFECT IT WOULD HAVE ON DAMPING DOWN ANY THOUGHTS OF GERMAN REUNIFICATION. HE IMPLIED THAT HE BELIEVED MOSCOW WOULD BE WRONG ON THIS LATTER POINT SINCE THERE STILL EXISTS A BODY OF OPINION IN BOTH GERMAN STATES FAVORING EVENTUAL REUNIFICATION.

3. IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION WITH A SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICE SEPTEMBER 22, HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT WHILE THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP APPEARS TO FAVOR THE CURRENT COALITION IN BONN, (AND HE PERSONALLY FAVORS THEM TOO) THAT THE SOVIET UNION " COULD GET ALONG" WITH A " RIGHTIST" GOVERNMENT IF ONE WERE ELECTED. WHEN ASKED IF THE PACE OF OSTPOLITIK MIGHT NOT BE SLOWED UNDER A CDU GOVERNMENT, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WAS PROBABLY SO BUT AT THE SAME TIME POINTED OUT THAT OSTPOLITIK IS PROCEEDING RATHER SLOWLY ANYWAY. HE NOTED THAT THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER THE CDU OR SPD WINS THE ELECTION BUT RATHER WHAT KIND OF POLICIES WOULD BE PURSUED UNDER SUCH GOVERNMENTS. HE SUGGESTED THAT IF THE CDU LEADERS ARE "PRACTICAL" MEN THAT DETENTE AND THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS WOULD CONTINUE, THE SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICE ALSO CONSIDERS BREZHNEV'S ACCEPTANCE OF AN INVITATION TO VISIT BONN TO BE "ROUTINE" AND UNLIKELY TO HAVE A DIRECT EFFECT ON THE ELECTION.

4. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM THE REPLY OF THE FRG REPRESENTATION OFFICER, AND FROM CONVERSATIONS REPORTED BY EMBASSY BONN, IT APPEARS THAT THE FRG OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE GDR INFLUENCE IN THE FRG ELECTION IS THAT IF SUCH INFLUENCE EXISTS, IT IS NOT CONTRIVED BY THE GDR TO ASSIST THE SPD AT THE POLLS. WHILE WE WOULD BE THE FIRST TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE GDR AUTHORITIES ARE WELL AWARE OF THE NEGATIVE EFFECT WHICH THEIR DIRECT INTERVENTION IN THE FRG ELECTIONS MIGHT HAVE ON THE SPD'S CHANCES, THE SED NONETHELESS CONTINUES TO SUGGEST THAT IT FAVORS THE COALITION. THE GDR'S RECENT, SHARP REBUFF TO CDU LEADER KOHL'S SUGGESTION OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE GDR CAN BE READ IN TERMS OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRG ELECTION CAMPAIGN AS WELL AS IN TERMS OF THE QUIETUS IT ATTEMPTS TO GIVE TO THE IDEA THAT THE GDR COULD BE PUT UNDER ECONOMIC PRESSURE BY A CDU GOVERNMENT. COOPER

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